(a) whether it is a fact that China has announced construction of roadway till Mount Everest;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assessment has been made by India as to the repercussions of construction of this road; and

(d) if so, the assessment thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government have seen media reports stating that China plans to construct a highway on Mount Everest so as to facilitate the carriage of the Olympic torch to various places in the People's Republic of China as part of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. According to these reports, construction would be completed in four months at an estimated cost of US$ 19.7 million.

(c) and (d) Government keep a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's national interests and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

Changing of LoC into Line of Peace

†500. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reaction of Government of Pakistan to the statement given by the Prime Minister to change the Line of Control into Line of Peace ;

(b) Government's view-point on the proposal passed by the Indian Parliament that the land of Kashmir occupied by Pakistan would be taken back; and

(c) whether Government believe that terrorists from across LoC would not come here after Line of Control is changed into Line of Peace?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 16 July, 2007 *inter alia* said that the Indian Prime Minister's statement acknowledged that both countries are seriously discussing Kashmir.

(b) and (c) Government's policy on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir is in accordance with the Parliament Resolution of February 22, 1994. The President of Pakistan had, in the Joint Press Statement of January 6, 2004 assured the Prime Minister of India that he would not allow any territory under Pakistan's control to support terrorism in any manner.

Security of Indian women and temples in Malaysia

†501. SHRI SHRIGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian women and temples in Malaysia are increasingly becoming insecure;

† Notice of the question was received in Hindi.